the 28 public sector banks has given an indication that the published profits might go up by about 32 per cent in 1985 as compared to the published profits for the year 1984.

Government and Reserve Bank have taken a number of steps in 1985 for improving customer service and thereby improving the efficiency of banks. A number of specific steps have also been taken to improve the profitability of banks which include a better return on cash reserves kept with the Reserve Bank of India, higher rate of interest on food credit, the benefit of non-deduction of tax at source on interest on Government securities held by nationalised banks, allocation of additional capital to nationalised banks, etc.

Besides these steps, banks have also been advised to take specific measures to maintain their viability and profitability which relate to funds management, business planning and development, recovery of advances and reduction in non-performing loans, leakage of income, cost control, staff productivity etc.

(c) The percentages of published profits of 28 public sector banks to their working funds for the years 1981 to 1984 are indicated below:

Year	%age of published profits to their working funds
1981 . . .	0.12
1982 . . .	0.12
1983 . . .	8.11
1984 . . .	0.09

Fall in prices of cardamom

125. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardships being faced by the cardamom growers due to fall in the prices of cardamom during the current season as compared to prices prevailing in 1983-84 and 1984-85;

(b) what are the reasons for the said fall in the prices of cardamom; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure remunerative price to cardamom growers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) Prices which had risen sharply in the past three years on account of short supply as a result of drought have now returned to levels comparable to those prevalent with normal level of production and cannot be considered unremunerative. Schemes to increase productivity are being implemented to ensure remunerative returns to growers.

Plans to attract investments from non-residents Indians

126. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans before Government to attract investment by non-resident Indians in India;

(b) whether any liaison offices have been set up especially for this purpose in countries where large number of Indians live; and

(c) if not, whether government propose to appoint qualified persons for such jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) Government have extended several facilities for attracting remittances and investments by non-residents of Indian nationality/origin. All the schemes introduced since 1982 continue to be in force. These include facilities for setting up new industries for investment in equities, Government secu-

rities and bank deposits etc. In November, 1983, Government constituted a Special Approvals Committte (SAC) in the Department of Industrial Development for expeditious clearance of all industrial investment proposals emanating from non-resident Indians. The Reserve Bank of India had also set up some time back a committee to review the existing procedures followed by it and the commercial banks in connection with various facilities under the NRI schemes with a view to further simplify these procedures. The Committee has since submitted its recommendations and Government and RBI have taken steps to implement these recommendations, to the extent possible.

(b) Information, advice and assistance to non-resident Indians in matters relating to investment are given by the Indian missions abroad, branches of Indian banks and overseas offices of the Indian Investment Centre, located in New York. London, Frankfurt, Abu Dhabi, Tokyo and Singapore. The embassies have economic and commercial wings which are supplied with information about the opportunities available to Non-resident Indians for investment in India and they in turn make these available to the Indians abroad. The IIC and the banks function as specialised agencies to do the same job.

(c) Does not arise.

Fertiliser subsidy to small rubber growers

127. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to withdraw subsidy on fertilizers to small rubber growers; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Demand for enhanced commission by the Fair Price Shop Owners

128. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fair Price Shop Owners in Delhi have been pressing for increase in the commission payable to them;

(b) if so, what was the precise demand and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that the Fair Price Shop Owners do not indulge in malpractice to the detriment of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The fair price shop owners have been representing to Delhi Administration for increase in the commission payable to them. Their precise demand was that the commission be increased in view of the price rise and increase in the rent of commercial premise.

Delhi Administration has increased the commission on wheat and rice by Rs. 4 per quintal with effect from 1.2.1986 raising the per quintal commission to Rs. 10.00.

(c) For efficient function of Public Distribution System and to prevent diversion and other malpractices, the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation is delivering wheat, rice and sugar at the doorstep of the fair price shops. Regular raids are conducted by the Enforcement Branch of Delhi Administration *suo moto* or on receipt of complaints. Redressal of consumers' grievances is being given special attention. A programme of regular inspection has been laid down by all field officials.